



Christian Brothers of the Midwest

Provincial Office
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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Commissioner Robert Taub, Chairman
Commissioner Tony Hammond, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Nanci Langley
Commissioner Mark Acton
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Docket No. RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

We join the National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC), the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, and the nonprofit mailing community in urging you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. Increases that are estimated to reach 7 percent a year, or 40 percent compounded for five years, will not reform the United States Postal Service and will have a major negative impact on both the agency and its customers.

As a nonprofit, we rely on mail for the majority of our fundraising. But we operate on a limited, fixed fundraising budget each year, so if postage goes up as much as you contemplate, we will be forced to greatly reduce our mailings. This will have a disastrous impact on our revenue and our mission.

Our mission is to serve and empower God's people and one another through the educational mission of the Catholic Church. We are men and women, young and old, Christian Brothers and colleagues exercising our shared ministry in faith and zeal. Together we stand – open to the Spirit, rooted in the Gospel, enriched by our traditions, preferentially committed to the poor. Together we enthusiastically forge a common future as Christian educators.

A Postage increase totaling 40 percent over the next five years will have a significant impact on our mission and the people we serve, including our aging Brothers and the young people in our schools.

Please do the right thing and reconsider your proposal.

Sincerely,

Br. Joseph Saurbier FSC
Brother Joseph Saurbier, FSC
Chief Operations Officer

7650 S. County Line Road • Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527
(630) 323-3725 • cbmidwest.org

Please remember the Christian Brothers of the Midwest in your Will